

24 August 1966

## PEKING CHURCHES SHUT AND DEFACED

### Teen-Age 'Red Guards' Push Drive Against Religion, Flowers and Philatelists

By Reuters

PEKING, Aug. 23 — Thousands of teen-agers enforcing China's tough new drive for a stricter Communist way of life closed and defaced Christian churches today.

Red flags fluttered from the dome and western tower of the South Cathedral, the main Roman Catholic center, and demonstrators curtly refused to let foreign newsmen enter the walled compound.

From across the street it could be seen that some of the cathedral's windows had been shattered. Communist slogans were pasted on its walls and Biblical pictures were mutilated.

#### Bust of Mao in Church

At the Protestant church newsmen were again kept outside but it was possible to see that the interior had been completely rearranged, with a larger-than-life white bust of China's leader, Mao Tse-tung, at the center.

The campaign to change street names and other signs continued. The capital's huge Heavenly Peace (Tien An Men) Square, where major rallies and parades are held, is now East Is Red (Dong Fang Hung) Square, according to a proclamation pasted over the old signs.

The campaign to oppose bourgeois tendencies has taken some unexpected forms.

A poster outside a depot for pedicabs—tricycles pedaled by a driver with a seat behind him for his passenger—said that they might still be hired but that the passenger should pedal himself while the driver sits in the passenger seat.

#### Flowers 'Not Revolutionary'

Posters outside flower shops declare that having flowers in the house is not revolutionary. Several flower stores have been closed this week.

A stamp store has also been closed, with posters criticizing stamp-collecting as a bourgeois

hobby. The cathedral were used to display Biblical scenes previously used by the cathedral but now heavily crossed out with black brush strokes. The mutilated pictures included scenes of the Nativity, Jesus teaching and various saints.

Slogans extolling the new "cultural revolution" against bourgeois tendencies were placed on the outside of the dome, and a carved stone cross were chipped away.

Pictures of Mr. Mao and other Communist chiefs also hung on the walls, and the church was covered inside and out with red flags, banners and posters.

#### Official Support Given

The teen-age demonstrators responsible for the activity against churches and other "bourgeois" elements are known as Red Guards. They are acting with official blessing.

None of the Red Guards would not explain today why newsmen were not allowed to enter the cathedral. But they appeared to have taken over permanently the churches serving Peking's Christians—estimated at fewer than 20,000 in a total city population of 6 million.

The teen-agers seemed good-humored today compared with was chipped away. two days when they used their fists to batter the cars of diplomats and newsmen.

Today, witnesses saw demonstrators kick open a door and enter a Chinese house that had been covered with posters denouncing "bourgeois ways." In another street, Red Guards harangued an elderly man at the door of his small shop.

Soviet Embassy Still Target Demonstrations in the street leading to the Soviet Embassy entered their third day. Children holding pictures of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin—with a larger one of Mr. Mao in the middle approached the gates.

Cars in the street have to edge past a huge tableau consisting of Mr. Mao's portrait, a model of the book of his selected works and many red flags and banners.

The three Western newsmen stationed here were surrounded by a crowd of about 200 school children when they visited the street. The children shouted, "Down with United States imperialism! Oppose Soviet Revisionism!"

## BALTIMORE SUN 11 September 1966

By PETER J. KUMPA  
(Hong Kong Bureau of The Sun)

Hong Kong, Sept. 10—What was left of organized religion in Communist China has been destroyed by the officially sanctioned youthful mobs of Red Guards.

Catholic and Protestant churches have been physically taken over by the red-banded militants. Altars have been smashed. The insides of churches have been tipped out and covered with posters of Mao Tse-tung, Communist party chairman, and slogans of the cultural revolution.

Ancestral Tablets Burned Buddhist temples have also been attacked. Most of the statues in the renowned Temple of the Sleeping Buddha outside Peking were wrecked by raging guardsmen.

In smaller cities and towns bonfires have been made of the ancestral tablets kept by most conservative Chinese families.

The attacks on religious institutions are part of the well-organized campaign to destroy the "four olds" on mainland China. Red Guardsmen by the tens of thousands have been deployed in gangs to wipe out old ideas, old culture, old customs and old habits.

While official Peking sources have praised the guardsmen for their deliberate destruction of old street signs and business establishments and the invasion of private homes and physical mistreatment of "feudalists," they have not acknowledged the assaults on places of worship. In theory religious liberty is constitutionally guaranteed.

#### Beginning Of Terror

From non-Chinese Communist, Japanese and Western correspondents in Peking and from travelers it is possible to piece together the destruction of religion in the country.

It began in Peking about August 20 shortly after the Red Guards were publicly organized and held their first gigantic rally.

Both the walled compound of Nantang, the Catholic South Cathedral and the Protestant church within the former Young Women's Christian Association were physically taken over by Red Guards.

Crosses on top of the cathedral were replaced with Red flags. A heavy, stone cross on the west front was chipped. Windows were smashed in both churches and both were plastered heavily with posters.

Religious scenes taken from the

cathedral showing the nativity, Christ teaching and various saints were hung up heavily marred with black brushstrokes and signs saying that religious activity was forbidden.

#### Interiors Stripped

In both churches the interiors were stripped or wrecked. In the Protestant church a new altar with a big statue of Mao was erected.

The Convent of the Sacred Heart was stormed and taken over next.

After being detained for a week the eight foreign nuns were expelled and one 60-year-old British sister died shortly after arriving here in Hong Kong.

The inside of the convent was also covered with posters. Much of the interior was wrecked. correspondents were able to see statues of Christ and the Virgin Mary that had been dragged out and broken.

There has been no report on the fate of seventeen Chinese nuns remaining in the convent.

## BALTIMORE SUN 7 September 1966

### Red Guards Raze Buddha Statues

Budapest, Sept. 6 (AP)—Peking's Red Guards have wrecked most of the Buddha statues and other relics in the famed Temple of the Sleeping Buddha, one of the outstanding ancient monuments in the Communist Chinese capital, the Hungarian News Agency, MTI, reported today.

The agency's Peking correspondent described the destruction after visiting the temple Sunday with other Communist correspondents.

The report said the statues were destroyed under the slogan of "Fight against the remnants of feudalism."

## Nun Dies After Trip From China

From News Dispatches

HONG KONG, Sept. 1 (Thursday) — The ~~one~~ of eight Roman Catholic nuns expelled by Communist China yesterday died this morning in a Hong Kong hospital.

Sister Eamon, ~~she~~ died from heart failure and strain after an arduous, three-day train trip marked by Red Guard harassments and little if any sleep for all the nuns. Last week the nuns were tormented in Peking, and forced to run up and down stairs. The youngest of the nuns was 40.

Sister Eamon, the former Mary O'Sullivan of County Cork, Ireland, had fainted yesterday on the Chinese side of the frontier. In the words of one of the other nuns, a Communist guard "dumped her into a baggage cart and just gave the cart a shove towards the British side of the border."

She was rushed to St. Theresa Hospital by ambulance, along with the Mother Superior of the group, 76-year-old Sister Mary Mother of the Cross, who also had fainted. A Catholic spokesman said both suffered from "general fatigue."

The nuns crossed the border as some 700 Red Guards jeered

and waved clenched fists at them.

They were expelled by China under the "great proletarian cultural revolution," a purge that has convulsed all sectors of Chinese society.

The six nuns who were not hospitalized spent their first night in Hong Kong in a convent.

### Ran Peking School

"All of them are healthy," a nun at the convent said yesterday, "but they're all very tired and they would like to rest."

The nuns, members of the Franciscan Order of Mary, had run the Sacred Heart Academy in Peking for the children of foreign diplomats. The school was closed by Chinese authorities last Thursday after the teen-age Red Guards had

The nuns were reluctant to speak of their tribulations in Peking; they had left Chinese nuns behind. But Sister Thomas a Becket told Alan Castro of the New York Daily News that the Red Guards "made us bow as they chanted slogans. And as we prepared to leave, they harassed us with pieces of wooden board and we were made to run up and down stairs with our personal belongings."

A Hong Kong newspaper quoted the sister as adding: "They terrorized us and humiliated us but they did not assault us to the extent of causing bodily harm."

On Sunday, they began their train trip to Canton. They were accompanied by armed guards and at every railroad station crowds of Red Guards derided them. "How could we sleep with the Red Guards around us?" one sister said.

### Espionage Charged

Yesterday, the official New China News Agency said the nuns were deported because they were involved in espionage and instigated counter-revolutionaries.

The depredations against the Academy, which was founded in 1915, were one of

the several excesses committed by the Red Guards, who were unleashed on the public Aug. 20. Subsequently, Communist authorities several times instructed them to carry out their activity without force.

Expulsion of the nuns left only one non-Chinese Catholic official in China, according to Catholic sources here. He is Bishop James E. Walsh, 74, now in a Shanghai prison hospital, serving a 20-year sentence on charges of espionage.

## British protest over nuns rejected

FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Hsiung Hsiang-hui, the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in London, was called to the Foreign Office yesterday. Lord Walston, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, made, in the words of an official at the Foreign Office later, "a very strong protest" against the physical maltreatment and humiliations suffered by a British nun, Sister Catherine Rogan, when Red Guards recently broke into the convent of the Sacred Heart in Peking.

Lord Walston also protested against the action taken by the Red Guards against the foreigners' cemetery in Peking and the fact that officials of the office of the British Chargé d'Affaires in Peking were prevented by Red Guards from gaining access to it. Lord Walston then sought an assurance that the graves would not be desecrated.

The official added that Mr. Hsiung Hsiang-hui rejected the protest stating that neither Sister Rogan nor other nuns in the convent had been maltreated. He said that he had no information about the cemetery and that the matter should be taken up with the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Peking.

London Times, 7 Sept 1966

## FOREIGNERS' CEMETERY CLOSED

PEKING, Sept. 4.—Red Guards in Peking, have closed the capital's cemetery for foreigners and renamed it "Anti-imperialist Anti-revisionist Orchard". The cemetery is believed to contain about 200 graves, mostly of British and French.—Reuter.

HINDUSTAN TIMES  
17 June 1966

## Chinese desecrate Lhasa temples

New Delhi, June 16 (UNI)—The Chinese are making use of Young Communist League members to carry out acts of desecration in Lhasa's temples and monasteries.

This was revealed by a refugee who left Tibet in the last week of May. This disclosure came within New China News Agency's claim that the younger generation was "playing an increasingly important role in Tibet."

According to this refugee, one group entered the Tengyeling monastery and destroyed the religious text, consecrated images and articles of worship; they then took the main image and hurled it into the river.

Tibetans have been warned not to interfere with these bands of YCL members.